

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08641 201502Z

42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 AF-10 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 009922

R 201412Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 537

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

DIA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILL, TU

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONCERN RE SOVIET AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND THE  
MONTREUX CONVENTION

REF: ANKARA 5680 AND PREVIOUS

1. SEEMS UNLIKELY SOVIETS ARE BUILDING AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN THE  
BLACK SEA SIMPLY FOR THE PUPOSE OF KEEPING IT THERE. ALMOST  
CERTAINLY THEY WILL SAIL IT THROUGH THE STAITs WITH OR WITHOUT  
LEGAL SANCTION. IF, AS REFTELS INDICATE, ANKARA WILL NOT BE  
WILLING TO TAKE SOVIETS ON, WE SEE NO POINT IN U.S. PUTTING  
PRESSURE ON TURKEY FOR THE SAKE OF AN OBJECTIVE WHICH WE ARE  
VIRTUALLY SURE NOT TO ACHIEVE - KEEPING THE SHIP OUT OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN.

2. IN DEVELOPING U.S. POSITION ON THIS QUESTION, THE POSITION WE  
TAKE WITH THE TURKS SHOULD OF COURSE BE MUTUALLY COMPATIBLE WITH  
OUR EVENTUAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND WITH WHATEVER WE MAY PLAN TO SAY  
PRIVATELY TO THE SOVIETS. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, WE PLAN EVENTUALLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08641 201502Z

TO LEMBASTE THE SOVIETS PUBLICLY FOR VIOLATING THE CONVENTION, THE

TURKS SHOULD BE FOREWARNED SINCE THE IMPLICATION OF OUR PUBLIC STATEMENT COULD BE THAT TURKEY IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE PROPERLY TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION.

3. AS COMPLETION OF CARRIER NEARS, WE WOULD EXPECT SOVIETS TO BEGIN PEDDLING LINE THAT IT IS, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, EXEMPTED FROM PROVISIONS OF MONTREUX CONVENTION WHICH BAR PASSAGE OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS THROUGH STRAITS SO FAR STATEMENTS TO DATT BY HIGH-RANKING SOVIET NAVAL OFFICERS ABOUT THE CARRIER (WITHOUT DIRECT REFERENCE TO STRAITS ANGLE) HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT. RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET SERGEYEV (WHO CORRESPONDS TO US CNO) AGREED THAT USSR IS BUILDING AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER BUT CALLED IT AN ASW CARRIER - A DESCRIPTION WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT EXEMPT IT FROM MONTREUX RESTRICTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET KASATONOV (WHO CORRESPONDS TO US UNDER SECRETARY OF NAVY) DENIED THAT CARRIER WAS BEING BUILT, THEN ADDED, "IF WE WERE TO BUILD AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, IT WOULD NOT RESEMBLE AN AMERICAN CARRIER; IT WOULD BE MORE MODERN."  
DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MOSCOW08641  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS DUBS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730720/aaaaaoqg.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 ANKARA 5680  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <03-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRITISH CONCERN RE SOVIET AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND THE MONTREUX CONVENTION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005